

Understanding the One-time, \$250 Payment in the Recovery Package

Who is eligible?

Any adult age 18 or over who was entitled to retirement, survivors, or disability benefits from Social Security at any time during the period of November 2008 through January 2009.

Also, any person receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) cash payments (except those in medical facilities in which Medicaid is paying for most of the cost of their care), disabled children receiving SSI, Railroad Retirement benefits and compensation or pension benefits from the Veterans Administration during the above period.

When can an eligible individual expect to receive payment?

Most payments will be disbursed in May 2009. Individuals should expect to receive their payment no later than the first week of June 2009.

If an individual does not receive their one-time payment by the first week of June, what should they do?

After June 4, 2009, an individual may contact their local Social Security office or call the toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213. Social Security requests an individual wait until then to ask about their payment because earlier calls may slow service.

How will an eligible individual receive payment?

The one-time payment will be a separate payment, which will not be included in their regular monthly benefit payment.

Payments will be delivered in the same way currently delivered. If an individual receives a check or direct deposit, that is how they will receive their one-time payment.

Can an eligible individual receive more than one payment?

No. Even if an individual receives all of the qualifying benefits, they are only entitled to one payment.

What must an individual do to receive the one-time payment?

No action is necessary.

Will the one-time payment count as gross income for federal tax purposes?

No, it will not.

Will the one-time payment count as income for SSI?

No, it will not.

Will an individual receive a one-time economic recovery payment if they have a delinquent federal debt?

The law requires the Treasury Department to offset the one-time payments to collect delinquent child support and debts owed to state and federal agencies. The one-time payment will *not* be used to collect Social Security or SSI benefit overpayments.